SECTION 8: QUALITY CONTROL (QC)

8.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

LAC 55:III.Chapter 8 (Appendix F) requires that authorized mechanics, inspectors and MVI Stations follow proper inspection procedures. Quality Control (QC) procedures described in Chapter 8 ensure that the emission measurement equipment is calibrated and maintained properly, inspection and calibration records are accurately created, recorded, and maintained, and that vehicle inspection stations yield consistent and accurate test results. The practices described in, 40 CFR 51.359 that are pertinent to the design of this I/M program, the EPA QC requirements for evaporative tests as established in the latest publication of the IM240 and Evap Technical Guidance (April 2000, EPA420-R-00-007), and the Performing OBD System Checks as Part of a Vehicle I/M Program (June 2001, EPA420-R-01-015), are followed at a minimum. These procedures are updated as needed to reflect changes in the program or changes necessary to improve program effectiveness.

8.2 EQUIPMENT

Preventive maintenance on inspection equipment necessary to ensure accurate and repeatable operation is performed on a periodic basis. A system leak check is performed every twenty-four hours before testing begins on gas cap integrity equipment. Each time the analyzer electronic or optical systems are repaired or replaced, a calibration is performed prior to returning the unit to service. In addition, each analyzer locks out stations if scheduled maintenance is not performed and records lockouts in our VID for further analysis.

8.3 DOCUMENTATION

Measures are taken to maintain the security of all documents and compliance documents are made to be counterfeit resistant. They include such measures as the use of special fonts, watermarks, ultraviolet inks, encoded magnetic strips, unique bar coded identifiers, and difficult-to-acquire materials. Also, inspection certificates, waiver certificates, and stickers are printed with a unique serial number and an official program seal.